# MCHENRY COUNTY BOARD MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MAY 3, 2011

Chairman of the Board – Kenneth D. Koehler (District 2)

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Ersel C Schuster

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District 1	District 2	District 3
Robert Bless	J.S. "Scott" Breeden	Mary L Donner
Anna May Miller	James Heisler	Nick Provenzano
Marc Munaretto	Kenneth Koehler	Kathleen Bergan Schmidt
Robert Nowak	Donna Kurtz	Barbara Wheeler
District 4	District 5	District 6
Sue Draffkorn	Tina Hill	Randall Donley
John Hammerand	John P Jung Jr.	Diane Evertsen
Pete Merkel	Virginia Peschke	Mary McCann

The Honorable County Board of McHenry County, Illinois met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

Paula Yensen

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Nick Provenzano with Members of the Board, department heads and visitors participating. Ms. Evertsen gave the invocation/personal remarks.

#### **ROLL CALL**

D:-4-:-4

Sandra Fay Salgado

The roll was called by Deputy Clerk Linda FitzGerald. The following members responded: Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donley, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Absent: Miller, Salgado and Hill. Parliamentarian Jamie Rein was present. Chairman Koehler declared a quorum present with twenty-one members responding.

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of County Board Regular Session meeting and COW meeting of April 19<sup>th</sup>
Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Ms. Wheeler to approve County Board and COW minutes of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Chairman Koehler asked if there were any changes/corrections to the minutes. Ms. Schuster asked for some addition of conversation on the County Board minutes; Ms. Kurtz asked for addition of a sentence to the COW meeting minutes. The changes were noted and will be added.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion to approve County Board minutes and COW minutes of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 as amended has passed.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Koehler noted the sadness of so many lives being lost in the tornadoes of last week as well as the death of Donald Schultz, husband of County Clerk Katherine Schultz. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of those who have passed.

Chairman Koehler welcomed Mr. Jung back today after having successful surgery. He also welcomed new EMA Director Dave Christensen to the meeting today. The Chairman said he had emergency eye surgery last week so everyone is a little foggy to him today but it makes you appreciate your sight and what the medical field can do in emergency situations.

Chairman Koehler said he would be talking about the CMAP meeting he attended yesterday that had to do with the Local Government Distributive Formula (LGDF) issues under New and Unfinished Business.

The Chairman said if members have read the paper they will have noticed that the County prevailed in our Stay of the payment to both McQueen and Tonigan for their fees that were pending and that we will be going into Appellate Court in regards to that issue in the next several months. It was decided in Law & Justice yesterday that we will hold back in making those payments in accordance with our request to the Judge and to the fact that we are appealing their fees. Of note is that we are appealing not just the fees that were incurred in this last billing but also all of the fees that have been previously paid, so this is a wait and see issue to see what happens with that.

The Chairman said since the COW meeting that was held the GIS staff has been working with Dr. Fortner on developing the preliminary redistricting maps. The Legislative Committee will be meeting next Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the preliminary maps and then there should be the tentative maps that will be out on the internet

for the committee's agenda so if anyone wants to take a look at them you can check there before the meeting of the 12th.

Lastly, this coming Monday he will be meeting with the Secretary of Transportation, John Mica, in Rockford thanks to Congressman Manzullo putting this together. They will be talking about transportation issues in McHenry County and focusing on the Randall Road corridor.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION/REPORTS

7.1 Proclamation to recognize Barry Valentine for 32 years of public service with the McHenry County Emergency Management Agency

Mr. Jung made a motion seconded by Mr. Provenzano to approve the above-named Proclamation.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion passed.

7.2 Proclamation to recognize Rita Valentine for 26 years of public service with the McHenry County Department of Health

Mr. Jung made a motion seconded by Ms. Peschke to approve the above-named Proclamation.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion passed.

Chairman Koehler asked Barry and Rita Valentine to come forward. He presented them both with a framed Proclamation and thanked them for their many years of service to the board. Mr. Valentine told the board that he met his wife when she worked in Emergency Services and she subsequently left the County and came back to work for the Health Department. They both thanked the County and the board for their support over the years and the people they have worked with. Chairman Koehler said they will be missed.

7.3 Proclamation Proclaiming May 8<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup> as National Nursing Home Week and Acknowledging the dedication, compassion and quality of care given by the staff at Valley Hi Nursing and Rehab Center Ms. Peschke made a motion seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve the above-named Proclamation.

Chairman Koehler asked for a voice vote, the ayes having it, he declared the motion passed.

Chairman Koehler asked Mr. Annarella, Director of Valley Hi to come forward. He presented him with a framed Proclamation and thanked him for a job well done in managing Valley Hi. Mr. Annarella accepted the Proclamation and thanked the board for the recognition of Valley Hi and his staff and talked about some of the changes that had taken place which includes input from residents at Valley Hi on how things are running at Valley Hi. Chairman Koehler said the changes have been positive and Valley Hi is now running in the black, which is an accomplishment in itself.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

8.1 McHenry County Economic Development Corporation - Pam Cumpata

Ms. Cumpata came forward and said McHenry County has had an 18.7% growth in population since 2000 and we're around six billion dollars in economic wealth and we have the highest median income in Northern IL and the lowest poverty level. While we're not where we want to be from the stand point of employment, we clearly are better than some of our surrounding counties and we work every day to make sure that we have the right work force and the employers that are strong. Ms. Cumpata said she has been working with the Workforce Network and Workforce Investment Board offices, communicating back and forth about jobs in the county and the skills that are needed. Ms. Cumpata talked about a software package they have been working with called TORC, having one of the licenses in the Workforce Network office. This software consolidates a number of different systems in software and data sets from other systems that we all use independently and pulls it all together in one system. This system has the ability to take the knowledge, skills and aptitude within a particular job description and under a TORC score of 85 and above those skills are directly transferrable into other skills and into other jobs. If you want to go into lower scores it will tell you what additional skills or experience you need to pick up and where to go get it i.e., education or training. The EDC is excited about this program because it addresses the work force and what we need to be looking at for the future.

Ms. Cumpata pointed out that Ms. Courtney is coordinating a monthly conference call with Congressman Walsh's office to talk to him about why the Workforce Investment Act is so critical so that he understands how we can better improve that legislation. Ms. Cumpata said she believes when we educate our elected officials and we bring forward how well we do, that we discount some of the nay sayers that are out there.

Ms. Cumpata said the EDC is working collaboratively with the county and MCCOG in the broadband study. They are at the point now where NIU will be bringing forward a business case for them to look at next Monday. They have done interviews of municipalities, schools, businesses and hospital systems in trying to determine what they are using every day because most all devices being used today connect to the internet. If we don't have the internet we will not be able to function noting every manufacturer in the county right now is using some technology. Ms. Cumpata said they are also working with the Farm Bureau regarding Agra Business to make sure they are strong. They are also working closely with local Chambers and real estate professionals.

Ms. Cumpata said of importance is to focus on our primary employers which provide disposable income for our residents noting it is essential that business, education and government work together to support and value these primary employers as they are the basis of our economy.

Ms. Cumpata said on June 9<sup>th</sup> the EDC will host a Legislative Breakfast at Woodstock North High School from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Peschke commented on our county being the wealthiest in Northern IL because we have a huge middle income group and we are always at a disadvantage when competing for grants. She buys food from the Northeastern IL food bank and whenever they get grants it is less than what DuPage and Lake County gets in food allotment because McHenry County is so wealthy. Ms. Peschke commented on a controversial zoning issue we had recently where Ms. Schuster made an interesting comment about getting a group of investors together to start a park where businesses could park their vehicles where they wouldn't have to go through the process of getting a CUP. This could be a business opportunity that would be helpful to farmers and landscapers. Ms. Cumpata responded that we have a number of self storage facilities but she thinks people come in for CUP because they have land and they need income and they see their own opportunity to utilize their land.

Ms. Yensen asked what the numbers of retention of people being employed are this year vs. last year. Are we offering more employment opportunities this year than last year? Ms. Cumpata said there are a number of positions open because the skills don't match the open positions. We are seeing an increase of employment, about 2% and many companies are using staffing services. She said without attracting a significant employer into the county we are not going to see high numbers.

Ms. Yensen said the local Chambers don't expect the McHenry County EDC to attract retail but she asked if there would be an opportunity to work with the local Chambers as far as collaborative basis for providing educational opportunities and leadership development. Ms. Cumpata responded that they have been hosting lunch and learns on a quarterly basis with the municipal EDC staff and they have limited participation. She said she will reach out to them again so they know they have a resource.

Ms. Kurtz asked what kind of activities the EDC is involved in proactively in helping organic sort of start up efforts in the area of high tech, clean tech, green tech, as these are areas that have promise to a land locked kind of county that we are in. Ms. Cumpata said she does not believe in duplicating efforts as it diminishes what we all do, so when somebody is looking to do start ups and putting together business plans the first place the EDC sends them is to the SBDC. They do have somebody who is looking and wanting information on the county from the stand point of biomass and bio-fuel, so that is something being worked on right now. She said they are always pushing people to talk. Ms. Kurtz said it would be helpful to see a report that would indicate that kind of potential growth/growth and how it is taking hold and also from a business perspective, would be some kind of return on investment that the EDC is seeing as it pertains to their efforts.

Noting no other questions, Chairman Koehler thanked Ms. Cumpata for being here today.

Mr. Donley left the meeting at 10 a.m.

PLATS None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman Koehler spoke about the meeting he had at CMAP with a number of other County Board Chairmen as well as some of the major significant mayors of communities all over the Chicago land area. They were talking about the Local Government Distributive Formula (LGDF). When the State of IL imposed the income tax years ago there was an agreement that some of that tax money would come back to the municipal governments as well as the counties. This is tax payer money that comes back to the tax payers at the local level. He said there was a representative, David Vaught (sp), from the Governor's office who was emphasizing all of the reasons why the State of IL needs to take some of that money away from local governments. The Chairman said a significant amount of money is on the

line, over \$300 million dollars, to be taken away from local government. In the next few days the Chairman said he believes this will go fast through the State legislators so they will be keeping an eye on this along with doing a letter, if the board is in agreement, on behalf of McHenry County to say this is totally wrong; not just for the county but for every citizen who pays taxes. The point he tried to make yesterday is that McHenry County is already a donor county to everything that goes on at the federal and state level. Everybody has made the cuts and sacrifices that have to be made and if this money is cut off from municipalities we will find problems with needing to lay off people who are involved in keeping the day to day operations of running municipalities.

Chairman Koehler said the main part of the meeting was that we are all together in being against the State of IL taking any more funding away from local governments. He doesn't believe they are going to vote in favor of this but we have to be concerned. The Chairman said he would like the ability to write a letter on behalf of McHenry County and also he said he will probably have to be going back and forth to Springfield a couple of times in regard to this issue unless it's called right away.

Chairman Koehler asked for a show of hands who would want him to write the letter, with a majority raising their hands he will prepare that letter and share it with the board before it goes out.

Ms. Schuster said in regard to the possibility of having to pick up services for the municipalities, she hoped that we would look very closely before taking on any more commitments. Chairman Koehler said there could be some municipalities who wouldn't have a police department and then the Sheriff's Department would have to be going out and covering those areas.

Mr. Merkel said the IL Municipal League (IML) is very concerned as well because of the impact. Everyone has made sacrifices, the state has not. Until the state starts making smart budget decisions and the same sacrifices that everyone else has we're not going to solve this issue. Chairman Koehler responded that the IML was at the meeting along with other organizations representing a lot of the people who would be affected in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Mr. Merkel added that last year there was some discussion on the state level about changing the sales tax distribution formula. Chairman Koehler said that is still out there but what is allowed today is for a business, depending on what they are, they can actually locate in some other county and send out their billings and today only charge the sales tax that is charged in the county they are in. The state still gets its money but the county that they are located in will get the revenue and the first county will be cut out. One of those issues is where the tax dollars originated at and where they should technically be collected.

Mr. Merkel asked if the state is looking at changing the distribution what it collects and what it sends back to the local communities. Chairman Koehler said that's not something he's heard. He added that the only solution the state sees, at least in the Governor's office, is tax. They don't have a spending program put together.

Mr. Merkel said this Governor made a promise to the unions at the state level that he wasn't going to make any cuts prior to his election and got their endorsement, and that is part of the problem.

Ms. Yensen commented on municipalities who are sharing services such as dispatching for law enforcement to sharing inspection officers from one community to another. She strongly supports the letter that will be prepared. Chairman Koehler noted at this meeting they presented the group with a Plan A and there is no Plan B.

Mr. Hammerand said generally the State of IL has a regressive tax rate. Businesses hold their heads when they look at the taxes and the people themselves are starting to be upset by the tax rate on individuals that we've already seen increase. Mr. Hammerand said IL does not have a revenue problem it has a spending problem. He hopes that the Chairman's letter will include this. He suggested that a letter be done monthly both to the state and the federal government that they are taxing the populous excessively and if they expect a recovery to happen, they can't keep inflating the money and taking a bigger share of the citizens' accomplishments of their labor.

Chairman Koehler agrees that the State of IL does have a spending problem and debt problem as a result thereof. In regards to what is attempted to be accomplished, the Governor increased the taxes by 2%, that 2% is all going to the state supposedly for debt reduction. The state allocation that would normally come back to the municipalities isn't getting a dollar of that 2%, therefore in theory we've been cut back to 6%. This is taxpayer money, and this was a vehicle for the money to come back to the taxpayers for use within their own jurisdiction.

Chairman Koehler brought up at the meeting that we need a jobs program and we need to be in line with everyone else because we have a lot to offer, but if our taxes or workers comp is out of line and if we're so pro union in the State of IL, we're not going to get the jobs back. He believes that the collar counties, Cook County where most of the jobs are and most of the population of the State of IL is has to take this initiative on ourselves because it can't be handled down state because they have too many personal issues that they are trying to accomplish. Mr. Hammerand said he is in favor of a letter that includes all of these points.

Ms. Wheeler said it's unfair that our municipalities are having to make so many cuts and should be applauded for being able to do a good job with less. She agreed that the state's spending problem should be pointed out clearly. Ms. Kurtz said Governor Quinn needs to get a strong message to stop protecting "sacred cows". These are duplicate government structures and nepotism. The Governor needs to know that he has to be a reformer.

Ms. Yensen asked about pension reform in the state. Chairman Koehler responded that discussions are still out there pending and he doesn't know where those are at.

Ms. Schuster said last week she talked with Congressman Manzullo and a group of people from a local real estate company and in the conversation the most frightening part was the foreclosure rates, the fact that people can't get mortgages and the inventory of stock out there. In the conversation it was stated that there will probably be more foreclosures this year than last year. She said it comes back to decreasing home values and it reduces our tax base. Ms. Schuster said the Congressman is looking for direction and that he said it's not just the housing industry it's a jobs problem. The legislators need to get the message that they are not business people and they need to let the business people do their jobs.

Chairman Koehler thanked everyone for their extensive input on this issue.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Breeden made a motion seconded by Ms. Yensen to approve the following Appointments:

Board of Review Jan G Hervert

term to 05/31/2013

McHenry County Emergency Telephone System Board
David A Christensen, EMA Director term to 11/30/2013

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Absent: Miller, Salgado, Donley and Hill. The vote being twenty (20) ayes noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve Appointments has passed.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN UPDATES

Ms. Donner said Ms. Hill will be out for a while so she will be handling P & D.

Chairman Koehler said Ms. Hill is still recuperating from her blood metabolism issue and she appreciates the cards and e-mails from everyone.

Ms. McCann said yesterday Ms. McKinney and the Delta Institute presented a workshop on water. It was an excellent presentation and it was well attended. They will be getting some of the power points out on the web for people to see shortly. Ms. Schuster agreed it was very enlightening.

## **ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Koehler asked if any members wished to remove an item from the Routine Consent Agenda. Ms. Schmidt removed 14.2 E(1); and Ms. Kurtz removed 14.2 B(7). Chairman Koehler noted that item #14.2 B(8) had been revised and a new copy is at members' desks.

Ms. Donner made a motion seconded by Mr. Breeden to approve the Routine Consent Agenda with two items removed.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Absent: Miller, Salgado, Donley and Hill. The vote being twenty (20) ayes noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the Routine Consent Agenda approved with two items removed.

14.2 B(7) Resolution authorizing emergency appropriation in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) fiscal year 2011 budget

Mr. Breeden made a motion seconded by Ms. McCann to approve the above-named Resolution

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion. Ms. Kurtz asked if this was standard to do this. Mr. Austin responded that this is a normal procedure to enhance the IMRF fund when there are funds available to do so at the end of a fiscal year to keep the fund strong.

Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote. The following members responded aye: Kurtz, McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schmidt, Schuster, Wheeler, Yensen, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn,

Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Absent: Miller, Salgado, Donley and Hill. The vote being twenty (20) ayes noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the above-named Resolution approved.

Mr. Hammerand said that at the Finance Committee it was commented that we could not fund it in this way but we could fund it over 30 years at 7.5% interest, so the board made a wise choice.

14.2 E(1) Resolution establishing guidelines for the Redistricting

Mr. Heisler made a motion seconded by Mr. Jung to approve the above-named Resolution.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion.

Ms. Schmidt made a motion seconded by Ms. Kurtz to postpone voting on this to the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion on the motion to postpone.

Ms. Schmidt felt it was important to hear from constituents on what they would like the board to be. She went to GIS to see what maps had been produced thus far. After seeing the different possibilities she has revised her own thinking. She requested a roll call vote to be done on this motion.

Ms. Kurtz said there is the issue of smaller government which is a national issue as well as state. Kane County is in the process of reducing the number of board members that they have at this time. In the area of transparency the state went around and asked for input so she hopes the board will support postponement to that we can get more input.

Ms. Wheeler said waiting two weeks would probably be a good idea. She would like to hear from the constituents of the county and if in two weeks they don't come, we can move forward and get this going. Other board members were in agreement with getting more input.

Mr. Provenzano said there have been several meetings to discuss this issue and no residents attended the meetings. He has not received any correspondence or e-mails from the general public on this issue and he doesn't see input coming. Ms. Kurtz responded in this situation that the board needs to take a leadership position on this issue, we need to reach out to the public and ask for their opinion.

Noting no further discussion, Chairman Koehler asked for a roll call vote on the motion to postpone to May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Chairman noted that a yes vote is to postpone. The following members responded aye: Kurtz, McCann, Schmidt, Wheeler and Yensen. Nay: Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schuster, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Absent: Miller, Salgado, Donley and Hill. The vote being five (5) ayes and fifteen (15) nays noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the **motion to postpone** to May 17<sup>th</sup> **has failed**.

Chairman Koehler asked if there was any further discussion on the main motion.

Ms. Schmidt made a motion to amend seconded by Ms. Wheeler to change district and member amounts to ten (10) equal districts with two (2) members in each district

Chairman Koehler asked for any discussion on the motion to amend. Ms. Schmidt said this division gives a more manageable district for the members to represent geographically. By reducing members by four it will be a cost savings to the county without severely impacting the work that the County Board would have to do. Ms. Wheeler supported this saying we need to do more with less.

Noting no further discussion, Chairman Koehler asked for a **roll call vote on the motion to amend to change district and member amounts to Ten (10) equal districts with two (2) members in each district.**The following members responded aye: Kurtz, Merkel, Schmidt, Wheeler and Yensen. Nay: McCann, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schuster, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen, Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Absent: Miller, Salgado, Donley and Hill. The vote being five (5) ayes and fifteen (15) nays noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the **motion to amend has failed**.

Chairman Koehler asked for any further discussion on the main motion.

Noting none, the Chairman asked for a roll call vote. The following members voted aye: McCann, Merkel, Munaretto, Nowak, Peschke, Provenzano, Schuster, Bless, Breeden, Donner, Draffkorn, Evertsen Hammerand, Heisler, Jung and Koehler. Nay: Kurtz, Schmidt, Wheeler and Yensen. Absent: Miller, Salgado, Donley and Hill. The vote being sixteen (16) ayes and four (4) nays noting four (4) absent, Chairman Koehler declared the motion to approve the Resolution establishing guidelines for the Redistricting has passed.

### **ORDINANCES**

None

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said there will be a joint meeting of NERC and Finance Committee on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. prior to the County Board meeting to review the MCCD budget. Also, he said our Asst EMA Director Bob Ellsworth traveled south yesterday to assist with the flooding issues going on down there.

#### MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Yensen said she has placed a flyer in members' mailboxes about the Letter Carriers annual food drive on May 14<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged members to place food out by their mailboxes to help stamp out hunger and help out the local food pantries.

Mr. Jung thanked board members for their cards and well wishes while he was recuperating.

Ms. McCann said at the Legislative meeting about three weeks ago GIS put together some maps. She asked if those maps could be displayed somewhere so that people can see where the boundaries currently are. Chairman Koehler said we could but those maps are deceiving, the maps that will tell are the maps that will be put together. The object of those maps was to let people know we have the capacity to generate maps based on different factors.

Mr. Heisler reminded board members that the next Legislative Committee meeting will be May 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Schmidt complimented the staff at GIS for their presentation on what we can do with our software. They did provide her with an 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 11 copy of those big maps. The big maps showed where the population had changed and where the districts were out of whack.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Donner made a motion seconded by Mr. Hammerand to adjourn at 11:11 a.m. Chairman Koehler declared the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Dated and approved at Woodstock, Illinois this 17<sup>th</sup>day of May, A.D., 2011.

s/ Kenneth D KoehlerKenneth D Koehler, ChairmanMcHenry County Board

ATTEST:

S/ Katherine C Schultz Katherine C. Schultz, County Clerk